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<p><b>PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</b></p> <p>Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231</p>		Attorney Docket	LIFE004
		First Named Inventor	Yeung Siu Yu et al.
		Application Number	09/497,269
		Filing Date	February 2, 2000
		Group Art Unit	1623
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Title	Electrochemical Test Strip For Use in Analyte Determination

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the patent application identified above. Prior to examination of the subject application, please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

*A Sub 3* -- 26. (New) The electrochemical test strip according to claim 1, wherein said strip is present in an automated instrument.

27. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said method comprises employing an automated instrument.

28. (New) A system for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, said system comprising:

(a) an electrochemical test strip comprising:

(1) a reaction zone defined by opposing working and reference electrodes separated by a spacer layer, wherein at least one of said first and second metallic electrodes has a surface modified with a homogenous surface modification layer made up of self assembling molecules having a first sulfhydryl end group and a second sulfonate end group, wherein said sulfhydryl and sulfonate end groups are separated by a lower alkyl linker group; and

(2) a redox reagent system present in said reaction zone, wherein said redox reagent system comprises an enzyme and a mediator; and

(b) an automated instrument.--

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02 FC:102 80.00 CH